Message Text

SECRET

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ERDA-05 EUR-12 H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /083 W

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FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3794
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE BE PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER PRIORITY

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E.O.11652: GDS TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: DATA DISAGGREGATION: SPC MEETING MAY 24 SUMMARY: SPC RETURNED TO DATA DISAGGREGATION AT MAY 24 MEETING. MOST OF THE DISCUSSION CONCERNED THE UNCLASSIFIED BROCHURE IDEA, AND TOUR DE TABLE REVEALED CONTINUED HESITANCY ABOUT THIS APPROACH, BUT PROBABLY WILLINGNESS OF ALLIES TO ACCEPT A CONSENSUS. FRG REP INFORMED SPC THAT FRG IS WORKING ON A PAPER ON UNIT DISAGGREGATION WHICH IT HOPES TO PRESENT IN NEAR FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

1. FRG REP (CITRON) SUGGESTED A TOUR DE TABLE REGARDING THE IDEA OF AN UNCLASSIFIED DATA PUBLICATION. HE SAID THAT THE FRG DOES NOT HAVE FIXED VIEWS AS TO THE FORMAT OF SUCH A PUBLICATION. THE FORMAT HE SUGGESTED IS AS FOLLOWS: THE PUBLICATION WOULD BE IN THE FORM OF AN ARTICLE IN THE "NATO REVIEW" PERHAPS QUOTING FROM AN IMS STUDY. THERE WOULD BE NO REFERENCES TO MBFR, AND THE DATA SECRET

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WOULD APPEAR IN A WIDER CONTEXT, NOT JUST ON THE NGA, DIRECT PARTICIPANTS, OR CENTRAL EUROPE. THE FIRST SECTION WOULD PRESENT DATA ON THE FORCES OF THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE, BROKEN DOWN BY NATIONAL COMPONENTS. THE FIGURE FOR THE US WOULD ONLY BE ON US FORCES IN EUROPE. A SECOND SECTION WOULD SHOW FORCES OF COUNTRIES BELONGING TO THE INTEGRATED DEFENSE STRUCTURE IN AFNORTH, AFCENT, AND

AFSOUTH. HOWEVER, THESE FIGURES WOULD NOT BE BROKEN DOWN NATIONALLY, EXCEPT TO SHOW THE US, UK, AND CANADIAN FORCES LOCATED IN AFCENT. (COMMENT: BEFORE THE MEETING, CITRON TOLD US THAT FRG DOES CONTINUE TO FAVOR AN UNCLASSIFIED DATA PUBLICATION, BUT NOT AS STRONGLY AS BEFORE. END COMMENT)

- 2. DURING THE TOUR DE TABLE THE FOLLOWING NATIONAL OPINIONS WERE EXPRESSED:
- A. BELGIAN REP (CROLLEN) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES WERE READY TO EXAMINE THE PROPOSAL SERIOUSLY, PERHAPS IN THE CONTEXT OF SOME OTHER FORM OF DATA DISAGGREGATION. HE COULD NOT GIVE A FINAL ANSWER AT THIS MEETING.
- B. CANADIAN REP (BACON) RECALLED THE CANADIAN PREFERENCE FOR TABLING NATIONAL SUB-TOTALS, AND CANADIAN HESITATIONS ABOUT THE UNCLASSIFIED PUBLICATION IDEA. HOWEVER, IF THERE WERE A CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF THE LATTER IDEA, CANADA COULD GO ALONG WITH IT.
- C. DANISH REP (TILLISCH) SAID THE DANISH POSITION WAS THE SAME AS THAT OF CANADA. IF THERE WERE A CONSENSUS ON THE PUBLICATION IDEA, DENMARK WOULD NOT OPPOSE IT. HOWEVER, A DATA PUBLICATION WOULD BE AN ARTIFICIAL STEP.

 D. FRENCH REP (GUELLUY) SAID THAT HE WOULD REPORT THE FRG SUGGESTION REGARDING AN UNCLASSIFIED DATA PUBLICATION. (COMMENT: FRG REP TOLD US EARLIER IN THE DAY THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH GUELLUY. THE LATTER SAID THAT SECRET

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HE WOULD NOT EXCLUDE THAT DATA ON FRENCH FORCES COULD APPEAR IN THE PUBLICATION, IF IT WERE CLEAR THAT THERE WAS NO MBFR CONTEXT, AND THAT HE WOULD REPORT FULLY ON THE SPC DISCUSSION. END COMMENT)

- E. GREEK REP, WHO DOES NOT ALWAYS ATTEND MEETINGS, WAS ABSENT.
- F. ITALIAN REP (CIARRAPICO) SAID THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO CONSIDER THE VARIOUS PROPOSALS IN RELATIONSHIP TO EACH OTHER. HE ALSO SAID THAT ITALY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING THE FRENCH POSITION ON INCLUSION OF FRENCH FORCES IN THE PUBLICATION.
- G. DUTCH REP (BUWALDA) NOTED THAT THE UNCLASSIFIED PUBLICATION WAS ORIGINALLY A DUTCH PROPOSAL, AND IS STILL ON THE TABLE. IF THERE IS SUCH A PUBLICATION, IT MUST BE POSSIBLE TO CALCULATE NATIONAL SUB-TOTALS FROM IT. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE "NATO REVIEW" WOULD NOT BE A SUITABLE VEHICLE,

SINCE IT COULD TAKE MONTHS FOR SUCH AN ARTICLE TO APPEAR. FRG REP, IN RESPONSE TO DUTCH REP, SAID THAT THE DATA PUBLICATION WOULD NOT HAVE TO BE IN THE "NATO REVIEW." THERE COULD BE, FOR EXAMPLE, A SEPARATE BROCHURE, BUT THIS WOULD BE "MORE SURPRISING" THAN AN ARTICLE IN THE "NATO REVIEW."

H. NORWEGIAN REP (BULL) NOTED NORWEGIAN PREFERENCE FOR TABLING NATIONAL SUB-TOTALS, BUT SAID NORWAY COULD GO ALONG WITH A CONSENSUS.

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- I. PORTUGUESE REP (GOMES) SAID PORTUGAL WOULD SUPPORT ANY CONSENSUS.
- J. TURKISH REP (GUR) NOTED THAT HE HAD EXPLAINED HIS MIS-GIVINGS ON THE UNCLASSIFIED PUBLICATION WHEN THE IDEA FIRST AROSE. HE KNEW THE SENSITIVITY OF HIS AUTHORITIES ON DATA MATTERS, AND WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO SAY HOW HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD SEE THE INCLUSION OF TURKISH TOTALS IN THE PUBLICATION. HE SAID HE WOULD REPORT THE LATEST FRG

IDEA TO HIS AUTHORITIES.

K. UK REP (HOLMER) REITERATED UK OBJECTIONS TO THE PUBLICATION IDEA. HE ASSUMED THAT ALLIED NEGOTIATORS WOULD BE ABLE TO CONFIRM THE ACCURACY OF THE DATA IN THE PUBLICATION. THE EAST WILL THEN ASK WHY THE ALLIES ARE UNABLE TO TABLE THIS DATA. THEY COULD CLAIM THAT THE ALLIES ARE UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE VALIDITY OF THIS DATA. IN ADDITION THERE ARE THE PROCEDURAL DIFFICULTIES AS TO SECRET

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WHETHER FRENCH AND TURKISH DATA WOULD BE INCLUDED. UK REP SAID THAT THE UK WAS CONCERNED THAT THE DATA PUBLICATION WOULD PUT THE ALLIES IN A BAD PUBLIC POSTURE, FOCUSING ATTENTION ON THE ALLIED INABILITY TO TABLE NATIONAL SUBTOTALS. (COMMENT: UK DELEGATION OFFICER TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT THE UK'S MAIN CONCERN IS NOW ONE OF PUBLIC PRESENTATION. THE WEST WOULD BE ON MORE SECURE GROUND IF IT ONLY HAD TO DEFEND IN PUBLIC ITS UNIT DISAGGREGATION PROPOSAL, AND NOT THE DATA PUBLICATION. AT THE SAME TIME, UK DELEGATION HAS INSTRUCTIONS STATING THAT IF THE FRG COMES UP WITH AN ADEQUATE UNIT DISAGGREGATION PROPOSAL, FROM WHICH NATIONAL SUB-TOTALS COULD BE CALCULATED, AND IF THERE IS A CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF AN UNCLASSIFIED PUBLICATION AS WELL, THE UK WOULD RELUCTANTLY GO ALONG WITH THAT CONSENSUS. END COMMENT)

- L. US REP (MOORE) SAID THAT IN THE CURRENT TACTICAL SITUATION SUCH A PUBLICATION MIGHT BE USEFUL. REGARDING THE CRITICISM OF THE IDEA, HE SUGGESTED THAT NO CONCLUSIONS SHOULD BE REACHED IN ADVANCE OF DISCUSSING WHAT STEP IN VIENNA THE DATA PUBLICATION WOULD COMPLEMENT.
- 3. BELGIAN REP INQUIRED IF THE BREAKDOWN IN THE PUBLICATION WOULD EXCLUDE NAVAL FORCES. FRG REP EXPRESSED FLEXIBILITY ON THE SUBJECT.
- 4. ITALIAN REP INQUIRED IF THE FRG IDEAS ON THE UNCLASSIFIED PUBLICATION WERE INTENDED AS A WAY OF FOREGOING OTHER PROPOSALS. FRG REP REPLIED THAT THE FRG IS PRESENTLY EXAMINING THE QUESTION OF UNIT BREAKDOWNS. THE FRG HAS SOME HESITANCY ABOUT THE FUNCTIONAL BREAKDOWN WHICH THE DUTCH HAD SUGGESTED. HE HOPED TO PRESENT A PAPER ON UNIT BREAKDOWNS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. ACTING CHAIRMAN (KILLHAM) ALSO NOTED THAT IT WOULD HELP THE SPC TO SEE HOW THE FRG IDEA ON THE DATA PUBLICATION WOULD LOOK IN BLACK AND WHITE, AND FRG REP SAID HE WOULD TRY TO OBLIGE.

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- 5. NEXT SPC MEETING ON MBFR IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 31, WITH PROVISO SUGGESTED BY DUTCH THAT SPC WILL MEET EARLIER IF FRG HAS SOMETHING TO INTRODUCE.
- 6. COMMENT: WE DISCUSSED WITH FRG REP EARLIER IN THE DAY THE BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR DATA PUBLICATION CONTAINED IN PARA 3, STATE 119082, DTG 232330Z MAY 77. HE INDICATED FRG FLEXIBILITY ON INCLUSION OF THE FIGURES ON FRANCE AND TURKEY. FRG ALSO APPEARS FLEXIBLE ON USING A VEHICLE OTHER THAT THE "NATO REVIEW." THE GENERAL FRG APPROACH OUTLINED IN PARA 1 ABOVE THUS WOULD SEEM COMPATIBLE WITH OUR GUIDANCE. BENNETT

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